

Appl. No. 10/668,139
Amdt. dated April 25, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed January 25, 2006

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A ferrule for a golf club, comprising:

a body having an upper portion and a lower portion that cooperatively define an axial bore extending the entire longitudinal length of the body for receiving a golf club shaft therethrough;

wherein the upper portion includes a plurality of protrusions positioned on an interior surface in the axial bore; and

wherein the lower portion is further configured to receive an end of a hosel of a golf club head into the axial bore, the lower portion having an interior surface about the axial bore configured to cooperate with the end of the hosel to inhibit axial rotation of the ferrule about the hosel.

Claim 2 (original): A ferrule as defined in claim 1, wherein the lower portion includes an annular ridge positioned in the axial bore and configured to cooperate with an annular recess defined on an outer surface of the hosel to inhibit longitudinal movement of the ferrule.

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (original): A ferrule as defined in claim 1, further comprising at least one rib formed on the interior surface of the lower portion of the body and configured to be received within a corresponding groove defined on the outer surface of the hosel to inhibit axial rotation of the ferrule.

Claim 5 (original): A ferrule as defined in claim 1, further comprising at least one groove formed on an interior surface of the lower portion of the body and configured to receive a corresponding rib on the outer surface of the hosel to inhibit axial rotation of the ferrule.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A ferrule as defined in claim 1, further comprising a chamfer surface at a bottom end of the body.

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Claim 7 (original): A ferrule as defined in claim 1, wherein the axial bore has a variable diameter profile including a first inner diameter at the upper portion that is smaller than a second inner diameter at the lower portion, the second inner diameter sized to receive the tip of the golf club shaft and the end of the hosel of the golf club head.

Claim 8 (original): A ferrule as defined in claim 1, wherein the body is formed of a material having a density less than about 2 g/cc and a modulus of elasticity no greater than about 3 GPa.

Claims 9-11 (canceled).

Claims 12-13 (withdrawn).

Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): A golf club as defined in claim ~~14~~ 31, the corresponding surfaces of the ferrule and the hosel further including an annular ridge positioned within the axial bore of the ferrule and an annular recess defined on an outer surface of the hosel.

Claim 16 (original): A golf club as defined in claim 15, wherein the axial bore has a variable diameter profile including a first inner diameter at an upper portion that is smaller than a second inner diameter at the bottom portion, the second inner diameter sized to receive the shaft and the end of the hosel of the golf club head.

Claim 17 (original): A golf club as defined in claim 15, the ferrule having a chamfered or rounded, annular edge formed on a bottom end thereof.

Claims 18-28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (new): A golf club, comprising:

a golf club head having a hosel, the hosel defining a cavity having an opening at an upper end of the hosel and an annular recess on an outer surface of the hosel;

a shaft having an upper end adapted to be gripped by a golfer and a lower end extending into the cavity defined by the hosel; and

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a ferrule defining an axial bore and having the shaft extending therethrough, the ferrule having a bottom portion surrounding the upper end of the hosel and an annular ridge positioned within the axial bore;

wherein the annular ridge and the annular recess engage each other in an interlocking fashion to inhibit axial rotation and longitudinal movement of the ferrule.

Claim 30 (new): A golf club, comprising:

a golf club head having a hosel, the hosel defining a cavity having an opening at an upper end of the hosel;

a shaft having an upper end adapted to be gripped by a golfer and a lower end extending into the cavity defined by the hosel; and

a ferrule defining an axial bore and having the shaft extending therethrough, the ferrule having a bottom portion surrounding the upper end of the hosel and a plurality of protrusions positioned on an interior surface of the axial bore in contact with the shaft such that the ferrule and the shaft define a cavity therebetween;

wherein the hosel and the ferrule have corresponding surfaces that engage each other in an interlocking fashion to inhibit axial rotation and longitudinal movement of the ferrule.

Claim 31 (new): A golf club, comprising:

a golf club head having a hosel, the hosel defining a cavity having an opening at an upper end of the hosel and a groove on an outer surface of the hosel;

a shaft having an upper end adapted to be gripped by a golfer and a lower end extending into the cavity defined by the hosel; and

a ferrule defining an axial bore and having the shaft extending therethrough, the ferrule having a bottom portion surrounding the upper end of the hosel and a longitudinal rib formed within the axial bore;

wherein the groove on the outer surface of the hosel and the longitudinal rib formed within the axial bore engage each other in an interlocking fashion to inhibit axial rotation and longitudinal movement of the ferrule.